



MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Maine Judicial Branch Announces 2018 Performance Council Awards

Supreme Court Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley recently announced the recipients of this year's Judicial Branch Performance Council employee and volunteer recognition awards. Each year since 1997, the Judicial Branch has honored individual employees, teams, and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the work and mission of the Judicial Branch.

Advocate for Justice Award: Family Law Magistrate Andrea Najarian, who is based in the Portland District Court, received the Advocate for Justice Award, presented to the "person, judge, employee, legislator, public official, lawyer, or citizen who has most effectively championed the cause of justice in our society." Magistrate Najarian was lauded as an extremely hard-working Magistrate who is consistently "fair, logical, and respectful of all who appear before her," going well beyond the requirements of her position to consider new ideas to better serve the public. She was praised for mentoring attorneys and mediators, and for consistently working to improve court processes in family matters cases involving children.

Roy Rice Award: Judicial Deputy Marshal John Hook received the Roy Rice Award for his "outstanding contribution to the safety and well-being of the employees of the Judicial Branch and those persons who participate in court activities." Deputy Marshal Hook has significantly enhanced safety and security for the public, as well as the judges, clerks, and visitors to the District Court in Newport over a 20-year career. He was commended for his "patience, understanding, and admirable tact" in working with clients and visitors to court, often under difficult or stressful situations. Deputy Marshal Hook was also recognized for being dependable, efficient, kind, and unfailingly punctual in performing his duties as a Judicial Marshal.

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award: Attorney Peter J. Guffin, who leads the Privacy & Data Security practice at the Portland-based law firm Pierce Atwood, was recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Guffin, who also serves as a Visiting Professor of Practice and Co-Director of the Information Privacy Law Program at the University of Maine Law School, was a member of the Judicial Branch's Task Force on Privacy and Transparency. The Task Force was convened to assist the Supreme Judicial Court in developing guidelines that balance the need for transparency in government with individual rights of privacy as the Judicial Branch shifts to digital court files. Mr. Guffin was active on the Task Force over the 6-month period it met, and generously contributed his expertise, scholarship, and insights.

Outstanding Judicial Employee of the Year: Hancock County Superior Court Clerk Terry Harding was named Outstanding Judicial Employee of the Year for 2018. The award is given to the employee who best exemplifies "the qualities of competence in providing court services, commitment to public service, respect, courtesy to fellow employees and members of the public, and a willingness to learn and grow." Ms. Harding, who serves as the clerk of the Hancock County Superior Court in Ellsworth, was unexpectedly called upon to serve as the acting clerk of the very busy Penobscot Judicial Center in Bangor for a five and a half-month period. Terry took on the additional responsibilities while continuing to be an active and working clerk in Ellsworth. She provided "stability and support for the employees in Bangor during what could have been a time of uncertainty and concern. The leadership she provided was appreciated by the clerks, the judges and the AOC."

Career Performance Award: Judicial Branch Court Reporter Tim Thompson was the recipient of the Branch's Career Performance Award. The award is given to an individual who "consistently contributes above and beyond expected job



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responsibilities to further the Judicial Branch mission.” Mr. Thompson was recognized for his calm and helpful approach to his work, that is combined with a high level of proficiency and accuracy in transcribing the official record of court proceedings. He regularly works in the two busiest regions of the state (York and Cumberland Counties), frequently providing the official court record in five or six high profile trials a year. Described as the consummate professional, Mr. Thompson was recognized for his mentoring skills and for being consistently civil and courteous in an environment that is often tense. He is always ready to pitch in to assist in any courtroom in the state. Mr. Thompson also received a longevity award for 40 years of service with the Judicial Branch.

Special Service Award: Members of the Family Division received a Special Service Award for “improvements in the operation and performance of the Judicial Branch” deserving of public recognition. Recently-hired Family Division Manager Caroline Jova accepted the award on behalf of the Family Division along with Coordinator of Guardian ad Litem Services Tracy Leigh Jacques of Windsor, Family Process Specialist Joanna Davis of Biddeford, and Administrative Assistant Jodi Kimball, of Readfield. In addition to their other duties, Family Division staff were unexpectedly called upon to organize the myriad details of an important multi-day training conference for over 400 child protection professionals, including handling many follow-up tasks over a period of more than six months. The team “rolled up their sleeves, identified the problems that needed to be solved, and worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the training”- due in large part to the “skill, dedication and good humor” demonstrated by team members.

In thanking the awardees for their excellent work, Chief Saufley said, “Reviewing nominations is a highlight of my year. The extra effort, creativity, and professionalism shown by all of the nominees is truly an inspiration. The individuals and teams recognized this year exemplify the high standards of public service in the Judicial Branch that matter so much to the public. All of us — clerks, judicial marshals, judges, magistrates and others within the Judicial Branch — are proud to serve the people of Maine in furthering our mission of administering justice in a safe, accessible, efficient, and impartial manner.”

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Advocate for Justice Award recipient Magistrate Andrea Najarian is pictured with (left to right) Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Jabar, District Court Deputy Chief Judge Susan Sparaco, District Court Chief Judge Susan Oram, Superior Court Chief Justice Roland Cole, and Superior Court Deputy Chief Justice Robert Mullen.



Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Attorney Peter J. Guffin is pictured with (left to right) Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Jabar, District Court Deputy Chief Judge Susan Sparaco, District Court Chief Judge Susan Oram, Superior Court Chief Justice Roland Cole, Superior Court Deputy Chief Justice Robert Mullen, and Supreme Court Associate Justice Thomas Humphrey.



Roy Rice Award recipient Judicial Deputy Marshal John Hook is pictured with (left to right) Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Jabar, District Court Deputy Chief Judge Susan Sparaco, District Court Chief Judge Susan Oram, Superior Court Chief Justice Roland Cole, and Superior Court Deputy Chief Justice Robert Mullen.



Outstanding Judicial Employee of the Year Award recipient Clerk of Hancock Superior Court Terry Harding is pictured with (left to right) District Court Deputy Chief Judge Susan Sparaco, District Court Chief Judge Susan Oram, Superior Court Chief Justice Roland Cole, Superior Court Deputy Chief Justice Robert Mullen, and Supreme Court Associate Justice Thomas Humphrey.



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Career Performance Award recipient Court Reporter Tim Thompson is pictured with (left to right) District Court Chief Judge Susan Oram, District Court Deputy Chief Judge Susan Sparaco, Superior Court Chief Justice Roland Cole, Superior Court Deputy Chief Justice Robert Mullen, Supreme Court Associate Justice Thomas Humphrey, Supreme Court Associate Justice Ellen Gorman, and Supreme Court Associate Justice Andrew Mead.



Special Service Award recipients Family Division team members (front row-left to right) Family Process Specialist Joanna Davis, former Family Division Manager Elaine Clark, Family Division Administrative Assistant Jodi Kimball, Guardian ad Litem Services Coordinator Tracy Leigh Jacques, and Family Division Manager Caroline Jova. Pictured (back row-left to right) District Court Chief Judge Susan Oram, Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Jabar, District Court Deputy Chief Judge Susan Sparaco, Superior Court Deputy Chief Justice Robert Mullen, Supreme Court Associate Justice Thomas Humphrey, and Supreme Court Associate Justice Ellen Gorman.